

was not anything that I saw on the stage. It was that simple exhibition of unaffected Christian service, and it helped me toward a truer interpretation of the true Christian spirit."

A Dandelion's Way

The Outlook.

A Dandelion likes to have her own way, just as you and I do. She loves to grow up tall with a fine long stem, nodding and shaking her head and swaying merrily in the wind and sunshine. When the storm comes beating down, she draws her green waterproof cloak up over her head; and while the thrush sings so cheerily, she makes merry with the raindrops—gay little dandelion!

But the dandelion cannot always have her own way, sweet as it is, for there is the gardener who comes cutting her down cruelly with the lawn mower again and again and again.

How discouraging all this is when one feels herself made to live on a long stem with such jocund friends as the rain, the wind, and the sunshine! But the dandelion is not to be discouraged, and in a wise little brown heart she considers how she may best adapt herself to such adverse circumstances as gardeners and lawn mowers.

The next day she comes up as bright and friendly as ever, only with a shorter stem. Again she is cut down, and again she springs up bravely with a still shorter stem.

At last she is trampled upon and bruised and crushed under foot to the earth, but the brightness and gladness and beauty are still there in the faithful brown heart, and, gazing steadfastly into heaven, she sends up one trustful little bud without any stem at all.

Her sister dandelions do the same, and they bloom and bloom and bloom until the green lawn looks as if it were buttoned down all over with pieces of brightest gold.

This is a true story; but if you don't believe it, you may ask the dandelion.

Sisters' S. C. E.

From the President

At their last meeting the Ashland Sister's Society elected their officers for the year. Mrs. Clara Miller is now their president, Mrs. Lizzie Lizzie Lichty their secretary, while Mrs. Worst continues in her office as treasurer. The rainy day did not keep them from meeting, for here, as in many other places, there are a few who may always be depended upon, who feel responsible for the success of the society, who have come to know that this is *their* work and unless they are faithful in it they are not performing their Christian duty. This is an absolutely necessary element for every successful S. S. C. E., and it is because of such societies that there is today an S. S. C. E. in the Brethren church. I have been much impressed by this spirit of constancy manifest-

ed in the Ashland society. They believe the S. S. C. E. to be a sacred mission in which God gives to every woman of the Brethren church an opportunity to do actual work for Him whom she loves. Therefore as God's love never changes, their love to Him, as expressed by works, must always be the same too.

The fault of a number of our societies, even of some of the larger ones, is that they work by "fits and starts." When the wind blows in their favor they sail smoothly and speedily on; when the wind is contrary—oftimes nothing more than a breeze from a sulky member—then there is a lull or complete surrender. Such a work lacks the stability and constancy that belongs to every cause of Christ. Where is the constancy of Jesus when we work only when we feel like it? Dear sister, let us learn to work also when we don't feel like it, even when our hearts are bleeding. The same thought is emphasized in sister Laura Karns' article "Why be loyal to the S. S. C. E.," in these columns two weeks ago.

I don't want to give the impression that the Ashland S. S. C. E. is a model society. From the annual reports we know their earnings do not amount to as much as in many other places, but their free will offerings are more. It is, however, a model society, in that they work not only constantly, but in peace and harmony. At present they are planning more work for the spring and summer. Thursday afternoon of this week they meet at the home of Sister Gnagey.

To those who have written me asking to whom the goods for the furnishing of rooms in the Dormitory should be sent, I will say, address it to Mrs. J. Allen Miller, president of the society at this place. The officers of the Ashland S. S. C. E., constitute the committee to see to the furnishing of rooms by the other societies. I shall not be here after school closes in June.

VIANNA DETWILER.

Ashland, Ohio.

Our Young People

"Sir, We Would See Jesus"

MARY C. JONES

Show us Thy face, O Christ, that we may love Thee,
For some forget and some have never seen;
But there is naught we e'er can place above Thee,
When once we see Thee, beautiful, serene!

Show us Thy face, that shone of old with blessing,
All up and down the ways of Galilee!
And, like Thy fishes, Thy dear might confessing,
We, too, for very love shall follow Thee!

Show us Thy face, thorn-wounded for our healing—
O, heart of mine, canst thou that crown forgive?
Those bleeding hands were for our pardon's sealing,
And Thy heart fainted that our souls might live!

Show us Thyself, Lord Christ! In loving kindness
Above the tumult of the world between,
Show us Thyself and put away our blindness,
We need must love Thee when we once have seen.

—Congregationalist.

DECISION OF CHARACTER

Revelation 8:14-16; Proverbs 4:23-27

Topic for May 5.

I A BIBLE READING

- 1 The value of purpose, Dan. 1:8-17.
- 2 Guidance in judgment, Ps. 25:1-10.
- 3 How character speaks, John 18:37-40; 19:1-6.
- 4 Decision determines character, Ps. 27:1-9.
- 5 Decision determines destiny, Deut. 30:15-20; Prov. 16:25.
- 6 The supreme choice, I Kings 18:21; Luke 12:22-29.

II FURTHER SCRIPTURE LIGHT

- 1 Standing by one's decision, I Sam. 12:20; Matt. 24:13.
- 2 Choice necessary, 6:24; Luke 11:23.
- 3 Test of discipleship, John 8:31.
- 4 Decision of character determines judgment, Rom. 11:22.
- 5 How to stand, II Cor. 1:24; Gal. 5:1.
- 6 Decision of character, a growth, Eph. 4:14, 15.
- 7 Helps to decision of character, Eph. 6:13.
- 8 Thru reconciliation, Col. 1:21-23.
- 9 Thru Christ's abiding, Col. 2:6, 7.
- 10 The object, Rev. 3:11.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION.

- 1 What is meant by *Decision of Character*?
- 2 Is Christianity wholly passive and negative?
- 3 What does Christ mean when he says that Christians are to be the light and the salt of the earth?
- 4 To what extent should Christians oppose the wrongs of the day?
- 5 Will strong, decisive Christian characters ever evoke the prejudices of the un-Christian world?
- 6 Is courage or constancy possible in the Christian life apart from decision of character?
- 7 How may our society become more positive in character and influence?
- 8 What does it cost and what does it bring to be strong in character?

PRACTICE CHRISTIANITY

I John 8:14-18

Topic for May 12

A BIBLE READING

- 1 Christ's humanity, Mk 2:15; John 4:7; 11:35.
- 2 Jesus and the people, Matt. 11:1-6.
- 3 Practical teaching, Matt. 22:15-21; John 11:17-28.
- 4 Precept known in life, Matt. 7:1-5.
- 5 Belief and deeds, James 1:17-28.
- 6 The Golden Rule, Luke 6:31-35.

Let each of these topics and readings be assigned in advance to some member of the society and when called upon let him give the substance of the reading in his own words, supplemented by his own thoughts. It would be well to throw each open to the society for further thoughts.

The following scriptures will also throw light upon the topic: Isa. 1:16, 17; 32:20; 58:6-11; Eccl. 11:6; Zech. 7:9; Matt. 5:39-48; 7:12; 20:26-28; 25:34-40; Luke 3:11; 6:27-30; John 13:17; Rom. 2:13; 12:1-20; II Cor. 9:6; Gal. 6:2-10; Eph. 4:25-32; Col. 3:12-17; I Tim. 6:11; James 2:14-18; I Pet. 3:8-11. Let these several references be carefully read and explained. Each of them has a practical lesson for the Christian.

This service should above all things else be practical. The proof that we are religious is in our practice. Let us seek to know how we may better practice our religion. The church needs to learn that the religion of Jesus Christ is a practical thing and that it is her highest duty to practice it in this present world. The objection is frequently made against Christianity that it is not a practical thing. Let us insist that it is practical and demonstrate our contention by applying our religion to our every day life.